

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-8 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Allowance of claims 1-8 are based upon a decision of Appeal by the Board of Patent Appeals and Inferences (BPAI) reversing the rejection of the aforementioned claims relying upon Kuzma (US 5,771,289), Sundsted (US 5,999,967) and Messner (US 6,370,514). In its decision, the BPAI found that the substituting the voucher of Messner for the stamp of Kuzma would render Kuzma unsatisfactory for its intended purpose; that being-to pay for the transmission of electronic data by attaching electronic stamps to messages. Thus the BPAI concluded that modifying Kuzma to remove the stamp from the message and replace it with a voucher, which Messner describes as a gift certificate or coupon for the recipient of the message would not allow for payment for the transmission of electronic data [see BPAI, Decision on Appeal, page 5).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL FELTEN whose telephone number is (571)272-6742. The examiner can normally be reached on Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kramer James can be reached on (571) 272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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